

Apertures 65 and 67 extend through the lid 61 and are used as a touch read hole for use for reading the meter in the box and as a finger hole respectively.

Referring to Figures 7 and 8, the lid 61M is compression molded from a suitable plastic material such as medium density polyethylene. The lid 61M is similar to the lid 61 except that it has a central opening 71 with a hinged cover 73 for use for manual reading of the meter in the box. Apertures 65 and 67 are not employed and have in their place two circular recesses 63. In Figure 7 and 8, the same reference numerals identify the same components as shown in Figures 5 and 6. The dimension of the lid 61M may be the same as those of lid 61.

In the embodiment of Figures 1-10 the lengths of the recesses 23 are equal to a substantial portion of the length of the lid along which the recesses extend and are greater than one half of said lengths of the lid and are a little greater than $\frac{3}{4}$ of said lengths of the lid. For each lid, the area of the lower surface also is greater than the total area of the recesses 23 in the plane of the lower surfaces of the lid.

The median density range of the polyethylene used in forming the lids of Figures 1-10 is .938-.942.

Compression load tests were carried out on the lid of Figures 1-6, 9, 10 and on the lid of Figures 7 and 8. The tests were performed utilizing a 9" X 9" steel plate placed on the lid center. Prior to testing, each sample was placed on steel blocks around the perimeter of the lid to simulate the lip of the meter box.

Tests were performed on three lids of the embodiment of Figures 1-6, 9, 10. The three lids tested withstood a total load in pounds of 9380; 12,230; 8,910, respectively.

The lid of Figures 7 and 8 had a length of 26 inches and a width similar to that of lid 61. Tests were performed on two lids of the embodiment of Figures 7 and 8. The two lids tested withstood a total load in pounds of 14,070; 12,070, respectively.

It appears that the lid of Figures 7 and 8 withstood a greater load since it did not have the recesses 27, 29, 31, 33 of the lid of Figures 1-6, 9, 10.

The lids described with respect to Figures 1-10 are all rectangular in shape. The plastic lids however may be circular or oblong in shape with planar upper and lower surfaces. All of these lids will have at least two parallel recesses 23 formed in their lower surfaces. The lengths of the recesses 23 will be equal to a substantial portion of the length of the